

STORY 29.

HOW FUSTAT WAS FOUNDED.

A MUSLIM'S TENDERNESS FOR DUMB CREATURES.

ISLAM lays great stress on tenderness for the lower animals. According to a tradition of the holy Prophet a very wicked man obtained salvation because once in his life time he had in a desert procured water for a thirsty dog at great personal inconvenience. In this connection the following story will be read with great interest.

Between the Nile and Jubli Muqtam in Egypt there lay a vast expanse of land where (Hazrat) Omar bin Ass the conqueror of Egypt set up his camp during the military operations in that country.

It so happened that a pigeon built his nest in the tent occupied by (Hazrat) Omar. After some days the army had to march further on, and the tents had to be struck. But the tender-hearted (Hazrat) Omar ordered his own tent to remain standing so that its winged occupant might not be put to trouble. This (Hazrat) Omar had been brought up among a people so devoid of tenderness that they used to make living birds their targets when they practised archery. But Islam had so changed the nature of the Arabs that they left a tent standing to spare a bird a little inconvenience. When the conquest of Egypt was

completed (Hazrat) Omar by order of the Caliph caused a city to be built on that spot. This city was named Fustat which means a tent. Modern excavations have disinterred the whole and this ancient city.